

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4030

INFO AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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VIENNA FOR AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: IN, PK, PFOR, MASS PARM

SUBJ: US ARMS POLICY TOWARD SUBCONTINENT: HAMILTON
COMMITTEE TESTIMONY REPORTED

1. INDIAN PRESS SEPTEMBER 21 CARRIES AP REPORT FROM WASHINGTON OF ASST. SECY ATHERTON'S STATEMENT TO HAMILTON COMMITTEE THAT US HAD APPROVED LOAN OF 10 UNARMED HELICOPTERS TO PAKISTAN BY IRAN. US HAD GOOD RELATIONS WITH BOTH COUNTRIES, STORY REPORTED ATHERTON AS SAYING, AND "WE SEE NO REASON TO OBJECT TO THIS KIND OF LOAN." ALTHOUGH BHUTTO GOVT WAS NOT THREATENED, INTERNAL STABILITY WAS INVOLVED.

2. DEPUTY ASST. SECDEF NOYES IS REPORTED AS TELLING THE COMMITTEE THAT THE US HAD "MADE NO DECISION TO ALTER OUR CURRENT MILITARY POLICY TOWARDS INDIA AND PAKISTAN, ALTHOUGH IT, OF COURSE, REMAINS UNDER CONTINUING REVIEW."

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3. NOYES IS DESCRIBED AS "SKEPTICAL" OF INDIAN

ASSURANCES IT IS ONLY INTERESTED IN PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR DEVICES. "FEW IN THE WORLD, IF ANY, INCLUDING OURSELVES, MADE A DISTINCTION BETWEEN PEACEFUL EXPLOSIONS AND EXPLOSIONS FOR MILITARY PURPOSES...WHILE THE MAY 18 TEST HAS NOT CHANGED THE MILITARY BALANCE, IT FULL IMPLICATIONS, INCLUDING THE PERCEPTIONS ON THE PART OF INDIA'S NEIGHBORS, ARE NOT YET CLEAR AND COULD HAVE A DESTABILIZING EFFECT ON THE AREA AS A WHOLE." NOYES IS QUOTED AS STATING HE WAS "NOT AWARE OF ANY EVIDENCE" OF INDIAN TERRITORIAL AMBITIONS" AGAINST PAKISTAN. HE SAID SOVIET ARMS SUPPLIES TO INDIA WERE THREE TIMES CHINA'S TO PAKISTAN ALTHOUGH PAKISTAN HAD MADE "A SIGNIFICANT MIRACLE" IN EXPANDING THE SIZE OF ITS ARMY, REFLECTING THE ABSORPTION OF RETURNED POW'S. NOYES IS ALSO REPORTED AS DESCRIBING INDIA AS "THE PREDOMINANT FORCE IN SOUTH ASIA". SCHNEIDER

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